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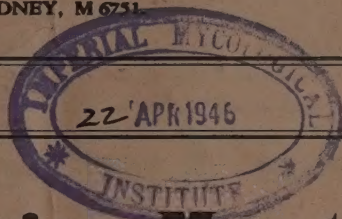
TELEPHONE NUMBERS: MELBOURNE, F 2656; SYDNEY, M 6751

Vol. 47.

No. 2

FEBRUARY 5th, 1946

Price 6d.



### Special Articles This Month

South Australian News and Notes

Summer Irrigation

Dried Apple Industry

Goulburn Valley Reports

Fruitgrowing in Tasmania

Citrus Notes

Queensland News and Notes

Seasonable Orchard Work

Apple & Pear Growers' Conference

West Australian Reports

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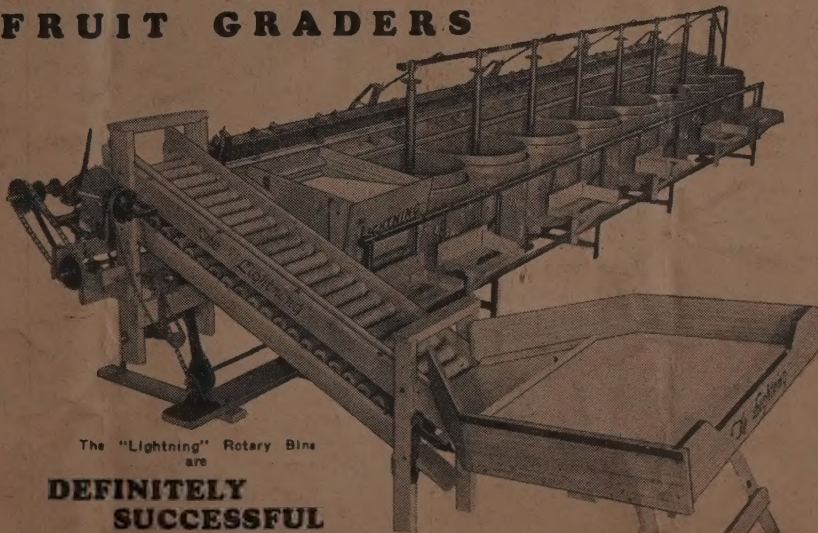
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## Western Australian News and Notes

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACQUISITION OF 1945-46 APPLE AND PEAR CROP — NEW DISEASE IN TOMATOES — SURPLUS POTATO CROP.

(By Our Correspondent.)

**SOME GOOD PRICES** were obtained for fruits over the holiday season, and Cherries and Strawberries sold particularly well. There have been plenty of Plums, the smaller grades going at times for as little as 1/- a case. Peaches and Apricots have been plentiful, and the supply of Passion-fruit has been fair. Oranges have been scarce, and there have been but few Lemons. Small Rock and Water Melons have been moving well at good prices, and the few Nectarines available have been in steady demand. Small quantities of new season's Apples and Pears are coming in, and it is likely that supplies will steadily improve. Supplies of Tomatoes are heavy, and prices have dropped considerably.

An order recently made by the Minister for Commerce provides for Commonwealth acquisition of the 1945-46 Apple and Pear crop in this State as from January 1. All Apples will be subject to the control of the Apple and Pear Marketing Board, with the exception of Williams' Bon Chretien Pears, which will be used for canning.

However, it has been arranged to release early non-export varieties from acquisition, by selling back to the grower such of the specified varieties as are released, purchase price to the grower being the amount which he would, were it not for the release, receive from the Board by way of advances, etc. Growers seeking release must apply upon a special application form, and release will be governed by the following points:—Application must include grower's estimate of each variety for which release is sought (no part release of any variety being permitted); released fruit must be disposed of strictly for consumption within the State; growers must not dispose of any varieties through or on behalf of any other orchardist; all costs incurred in the disposal of released fruit to be payable by grower; quantities re-

leased must be disposed of and cleared from cool store or market by March 3rd (Apples) and March 24 (Pears); all dockets, accounts and records to be available for inspection; growers will be authorised to arrange, at their own expense, cool storage space, notification must be given of all liens or interests held in crops.

Varieties for which a release may be sought are:—Apples—Alexander, Beauty of Bath, Devonshire Quar, Gladstone, Irish Peach, Lady Carrington, Liveland Raspberry, Lord Nelson, Lord Suffolk, M. Hay, Peasegood, Pomme de Neige, Prince Alfred, Red Astrakan, Red June, Trevitt, Twenty Ounce, Williams' Favourite and Willie Sharp.

Pears—Bartlett's, Beacon, Beurre Deil, Clapps, Fertility, Flemish Beauty, Howell, Jargonelle, Victoria and Souvenir du Congress.

No Jonathans, Cleopatras, Dunn's, etc., and no Packhams', Beurre Bosc or Glou Morceau will be released.

**Increased Acquisition Price Sought.**

At the recent monthly meeting of the Bridgetown Fruitgrowers' Association, a report was tabled by Mr. E. S. Hester, regarding the meeting between fruitgrowers and Minister for Commerce, Mr. Scully, upon the matter of increased prices. When it was stated that as Cabinet was not being called together for some time, an answer could therefore not be obtained for some weeks, Mr. E. E. Hill said that there had already been too much shuffling. The President (Mr. A. Flintoff) expressed the opinion that delegates had put up a strong case, and they had no option but to wait for a reply. Mr. Hill replied that he was satisfied with the work of the delegates, but not so satisfied with the result. He wished to move that they wire the Minister to the effect that unless they received an increased price for Apples and Pears, they should no longer favour the acquisition of the crop. Furthermore, they should give the Minister up to

January 31 to reply. The motion was seconded by Mr. H. O. Moore, and was carried unanimously.

**Tomato Industry.**

In a report to the Under-Secretary for Agriculture (Mr. G. K. Baron-Hay), the Government Plant Pathologist (Mr. Cass-Smith) states that during recent visits to Tomato gardens in the Wanneroo and Balcatta areas he recognised a new disease of Tomatoes, which was subsequently identified as bacterial canker. Disease was proving extremely destructive, and he considered that it might well become a serious menace to growers unless properly controlled. Chief symptoms of the disease are marginal wilting and browning of the leaflets, which gradually curl and die; dying continues until plant looks as if it were scorched by fire; also fruit on affected plants often shows characteristic bird's-eye spotting—small circular white spots, with brown fissured centres. Occasionally open cankers also form on the stem. Recognised seed treatments consist of either immersing seed in an acetic acid dip, or in hot water, and steps are now being taken to test their effectiveness.

Proposals of the acquisition of land for Tomato growing at Geraldton and Northampton were recently discussed at a meeting of the State Executive of the R.S.L. The State President (Mr. J. Anderson) said that he was informed by the Tomato Growers' Association at Geraldton that there was suitable land in the district, and room for many more growers. "Market for Tomatoes from these districts is almost unlimited," he said.

The White Cabbage Butterfly, which first made its appearance in this State in 1943, is proving to be an expensive pest, and efforts are being made to destroy it by the introduction of wasps. Government Entomologist Jenkins is busy experimenting upon methods of eradication.

This year sees W.A. with a huge surplus of Potatoes, and it is expected that 1,000 tons will be sent to Sydney this month. 200 tons were recently shipped to Melbourne, and a similar amount to Adelaide.

Mr. H. V. Foster, of Foster, White and Co., and representative of the West Australian growers on the Commonwealth Dried Fruits Control Board, recently left for Melbourne on business.

Mr. H. M. Wade, Chairman of the Victorian Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries, is at present visiting the West.

Mr. J. Wright, Field Superintendent of the Australian Potato Committee, who has been visiting the West to carry out inspectional work in connection with the storage and export of the current crop of Potatoes, recently returned to Melbourne.

Mr. P. L. Hausier, production manager of Munzone Products Ltd., Adelaide, recently made a brief visit to this State.

### NEW APPLE DEVELOPED.

**Suitable for Warmer Climates.**

Development of the first summer Apple of high quality which can be grown successfully in southern California was announced by Dr. W. H. Chandler, professor of horticulture on the Los Angeles campus of the University of California.

Unnamed as yet, the new variety is a cross between the early McIntosh, popular eastern Apple, and the Melba. It is a splashed or marbled red in colour.

Experimental seedlings have fruited for three years in succession in the orchards of the University, and Dr. Chandler expects to release the variety to nurserymen shortly.

Most Apple trees will not bear well in the Southern Californian climate because winters are not cold enough to meet their chilling requirement. Dr. Chandler, widely known among American fruit tree scientists, has been working for 12 years on the Berkeley and Los Angeles campuses to develop varieties which are suitable to California's temperature ranges.—"Citrograph."

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February, 5th, 1946



## The Gordian Knot

According to legend, Gordius, King of Phrygia, fastened his wagon to a beam with a rope of bark so ingeniously that no one could untie it. ALEXANDER the GREAT, being told that whoever undid the knot would reign over the whole East, took his sword and severed it with one bold, decisive stroke.

Who knows? Perhaps Alexander would have failed, and the course of History been changed if he had had to contend with the tough, durable yet resilient knot that is a feature of Gerrard steel wire strapping systems.

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## NEWS OF THE MONTH

### POST-WAR AGRICULTURE.

#### Problems to be Discussed.

Important discussions on the post-war development of agricultural industry will take place at a meeting of the Australian Agricultural Council in Sydney on February 7th and 8th. The Victorian Minister of Agriculture, Mr. McKenzie, states that the Council would have before it a report on the recent conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation. The main objectives of that organisation were to improve nutritional standards throughout the world, and to recommend means of overcoming any deficiencies in the world supply of foodstuffs.

The Council would discuss also the post-war production in Australia of wheat, potatoes, eggs, vegetables, vegetable seeds, tobacco, soya beans, flax and citrus. In some cases, notably potatoes, it appeared to be necessary that there should be some scaling down of production in order to avoid the disastrous results that would accompany continuation of production at wartime levels. A scheme for planned potato production with a system of orderly marketing and the maintenance of equitable prices to both consumer and producer would be considered.

Mr. McKenzie added that the Council would also give consideration to the legislation necessary to implement the wheat stabilisation plan agreed to at the recent Premiers' Conference, while proposals for disposing of Australia's exportable surplus of eggs would also be considered together

with post-war conditions for many important crops, including tobacco and flax.

Other items on a long agenda include fodder conservation, the future of the district war agricultural committees, farm mechanisation, and the interchange of agricultural graduates.

### NATIONAL PROJECTS.

#### Standardisation of Railway Gauges.

#### Water Conservation.

An agreement has been reached between the Commonwealth and the States for the unification of the railway gauges of Australia, estimated to cost £200,000,000.

Big programmes of water conservation are also to be put in hand in some of the States. For instance the Victorian programme envisages spending £25,000,000 over the next ten years in the development of water supply projects.

### NEWS IN BRIEF.

Success has followed the experiment in Queensland of sending fruit and vegetables by iced waggons.

Under the control system operating in Queensland, Pineapples are being diverted to the canneries on a percentage basis to keep the cannery fully operating.

The Brisbane City Council has announced its intention to build new markets. Discussions are taking place as to the best site.

There has been a rapid increase in Banana planting, on choice land in Northern Queensland. Northern markets have been heavily over supplied.

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### OBITUARY.

In the death of Mr. C. B. Williams at Waikerie, Sth. Aust., early in January, the fruit industry loses a fine citizen. He was a director of the Waikerie Co-op. Fruit Co. for 18 years (and chairman for more than half of this period); executive member, also Secretary of the Waikerie Branch of the A.D.F.A. for many years, and also rendered valued service to the citrus industry by holding executive positions in co-operative enterprises. He died at the age of 67 years and leaves a widow and one daughter.



**FIRE PREVENTION.**

We have received from the "Save the Forests" Campaign a very interesting and topical leaflet "Fire Prevention" written for the Campaign by Mr. A. O. Lawrence, Fire Protection Officer of the Forests Commission of Victoria. The leaflet is well illustrated and contains valuable suggestions on the important and urgent matter of forest fire prevention.

Among other things, Mr. Lawrence says, "It is our misfortune, but in no wise our fault, that we possess in Victoria what we believe to be the most dangerous forest fire set-up in the world. Our summers are long and dry, punctuated by days with winds of high velocity from the interior, high temperatures and low relative humidities. Normally, fire conditions extend from Christmas to mid-March, but after a drought as in 1933, they may persist from late August until early April."

"When the soil and forest litter are very dry, fire tends to flare up

days after its apparent extinguishment, particularly when fanned by a dry wind. For this reason many fires enter the forest from private property. In 1943-44, one-third of all the fires attended by our forest staff originated on private property within the vicinity of the forests. With rare exceptions these fires are not lit on bad fire days, but in cool weather, perhaps even misty weather. Very great difficulty is being experienced in bringing settlers to a realization that no fire lit in summer is safe, despite the conditions of the moment, unless the forest officer is prepared to grant his written authority."

Copies of the leaflet may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary of the "Save the Forests" Campaign, 314 Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I.

**NEW APRICOTS.**

Three new Apricots, developed in U.S.A., are promising well. These are Riland, Perfection and Phelps. They carry well on long journeys.

**APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL IN U.S.A.**

Prior to the war, Apple blossom festivals were held both in eastern and western U.S.A. It is interesting to note that there is to be a revival of this interesting function at Wenatchee, Washington State (Pacific Coast), U.S.A., in the spring of 1946. This is of nation-wide interest. More details later.

:: :: ::

Despite the short crop of Apples in U.S.A. this season, growers are contributing to a National advertising campaign to tell the health story. This is long-range policy which pays dividends.

Almonds are now the fourth largest California tree crop, with nearly 100,000 acres in bearing and with thousands of additional acres approaching the bearing stage. Production now approximates the average level of national consumption.

**PERSONAL ITEMS.**

Mr. R. C. Gibson, who acted as adviser to the Australian Delegation at the first session of the Food and Agriculture Section of the United Nations Organisation, who recently returned to this country speaks appreciatively of the procedure and the general outlook towards solving international problems of production and distribution of the world's food products.

One of the members of the N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries, Lionel T. Locke, who has been away for years with the R.A.A.F., has now returned and recommenced his agency business in the Markets as from 1st January, 1946.

He has done a very good job, being a Flight Lieutenant on the Intelligence side with the R.A.A.F. in the Islands up north and was there right until the end of hostilities. He is well-known in the Fruit Trade, particularly in Tasmania where his people are orchardists.

**PORT OF LONDON AUTHORITY.**

Various changes in the control of the Port of London Authority have been advised by Mr. T. R. Toovey, representative for Australia and New Zealand.

Sir John Anderson, formerly Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Churchill Coalition Government, has been appointed chairman in place of the Rt. Hon. Thomas Wiles, P.C., who, in April, 1941, undertook the chairmanship for the duration of the war.

Because of pressure of post-war interests, the vice-chairman, Mr. L. H. Bolton, also resigned, and is succeeded by Sir Douglas Ritchie, M.C.

The Port Authority, at a special meeting on January 3, recorded high tribute to Sir Douglas Ritchie, who had been general manager since 1933. His position has gone to Mr. Theophilus Williams, dock and traffic manager since 1933. Mr. Williams had a distinguished scholastic and sporting career at Cambridge, and saw considerable service in France in the 1914-18 war.

The Port of London is considered to be, in the widest sense, the greatest port in the world. Normally some 62,000,000 net registered tons of shipping enter and leave the Port annually. It deals with one-third of Britain's overseas trade.

# NEPTUNE

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# Seasonable Orchard Notes

## Summer Irrigation

(By L. F. Myers, Soils and Irrigation, C.S.I.R. Research Station, Griffith, N.S.W.)

FROM MID-DECEMBER to mid-February the evaporation from a water surface reaches its maximum. At this time, trees have high demands for water and the aim of irrigation should be to supply the full requirements of the tree without putting on too much.

To attain this end, the area of the soil irrigated should be increased so that the roots along the tree line are irrigated as well as those along the usual irrigation run.

### Don't Overdo It.

Sufficient has been said about the dangers of excessive penetration and the troubles that arise when too much water enters the soil below the root zone. Some have the idea that a heavy irrigation will last the trees for a longer time. This is true only if the extra water moistens more of the root zone. Any water that penetrates below the root zone cannot be used by the plant, and any water penetrating below two feet will not help the trees to last to the next irrigation. Briefly, then, the idea in summer, is to wet more of the roots by wetting more of the surface, not just more water on the same area.

### Citrus.

The advantages of irrigating more of the surface in citrus plantings during the hottest summer months are manifold. It helps the tree to last the period between irrigations and so helps to ensure that the tree does not lack water. The increased water supply stimulates an earlier autumn growth and the young shoots have time to harden off before the frosts.

With citrus, any of the methods used to cover a large proportion of the surface, however, require the constant attention of the "man with the shovel." One reason is that the soakage rate of the tree line is often very high and over-irrigation is likely unless a lot of care is taken. Infiltration tests indicate three to

five times the soakage rate under the trees compared with the bay.

Broad based furrows or as many V furrows as possible will cover more than two-thirds the area without the need for much extra work. Various settlers have worked out different methods of wetting more area than just by bay furrows. Cross furrowing is a common method which is quite practicable on flat land, or where side slope is not a problem. These cross furrows plus more furrows in the bay will cover roughly three-fourths of the surface.

The crowder system, i.e., a bank on either side of the tree, is another method which covers most of the surface. The higher soakage rate along the tree line means that much larger flows should be used in the tree line than in the bay, so that the water gets down to the end before too much soaks in.

A variation of this method is to have two crowder banks about six feet apart in each bay and use this more or less as a carrying ditch. The water is let in along the tree line from this carrying ditch, starting at the bottom of the run and working back to the ditch. One settler on a permeable soil waters each tree separately, while another feels he can safely irrigate three or four trees at once. The advantage of this method of letting water in along the tree line is that it gives very good control of the water applied.

Cross furrows may be all that is desirable for watering in the tree line of citrus. Some experienced growers consider that irrigation water should not be run on the soil under the tree at any time. There is no experimental evidence on this point, but there are several reasons why this opinion may be right under our tricky soil conditions. Apart from possible damage through Phytophthora it seems undesirable to disturb the mound of highly fertile leaf mould built up around the tree trunk,

and in many cases this must be done in order to get water to flow over this area.

### Other Crops.

The method of covering more surface in deciduous plantings and vineyards is not quite so difficult. Generally, the land is cultivated right up to the butt of the tree or vine, and the difference in soakage rate is not quite so marked. There will be some difference, however, and the penetration in the tree line furrows or bays should be watched.

The crowder method where the irrigation layout and grading allow, is effective in deciduous trees and vines. Where crowder banks are not practicable, it is generally fairly easy to put in more furrows. Eight furrows will cover most of the surface.

Apricots warrant special mention when talking about summer irrigation.

Once the crop is off, Apricots generally seem to be neglected, and the trees suffer from lack of water. Even when the crop is harvested, the trees still require a lot of water during the peak evaporation period. The soil auger is the only practical way to see that the trees don't suffer from water shortage. Some successful Apricot growers feel that the irrigations and fertilizers following harvest are big factors in the crop the tree will carry the next year.

With Peaches, the need for more water during January-February is more obvious, and most Peach growers are well aware of the need. The soil auger is important here too. Otherwise, frequent waterings might mean too much water, or restricted penetration might mean not enough.

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**43**  
**BRISBANE**

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### Salt.

The high evaporation in January will result in salt appearing in the root zone on those areas where high watertables have been present during past irrigation seasons. Covering the whole surface with a light irrigation will help to move the salt down to lower layers out of harm's way, provided this season you are sure that the watertable is well down. This washing out of salt is best done in the mid-irrigation season.

### ANT DESTRUCTION.

Householders in both city and country are having trouble with ants this summer. The plague, which is probably due to seasonal conditions, may be combated by two methods advocated by entomologists of the Victorian Department of Agriculture.

The first method is to take direct action against the nest, usually by injection of chemicals. Carbon bisulphide is one of the best materials for this purpose. Make an opening in the nest, pour in a few ounces of carbon bisulphide and place wet bags over the top. Take great care in handling carbon bisulphide, which is inflammable and poisonous.

The second method of ant destruction is to use poison baits. Most of these are liquid and sweet, with a small amount of poison so that the workers can take some of the poisoned material to the queen before they themselves die.

For the common black ant mix 1 lb. of honey in 3 oz. water, together with 16 grains arsenite of soda. This mixture can be stored and used in small quantities as ants invade the house. Solid baits may be used also, particularly for seed harvesting ants, such as infest and damage lawns. By mixing 50 parts by weight of flour to one of Paris green and scattering over the lawn at the rate of 12 ounces to 100 square feet, good control can be obtained.

A more complicated mixture is used for the Argentine ant, and persons troubled by this best should make application to the Biological Branch, Department of Agriculture, Burnley, for the correct formula.

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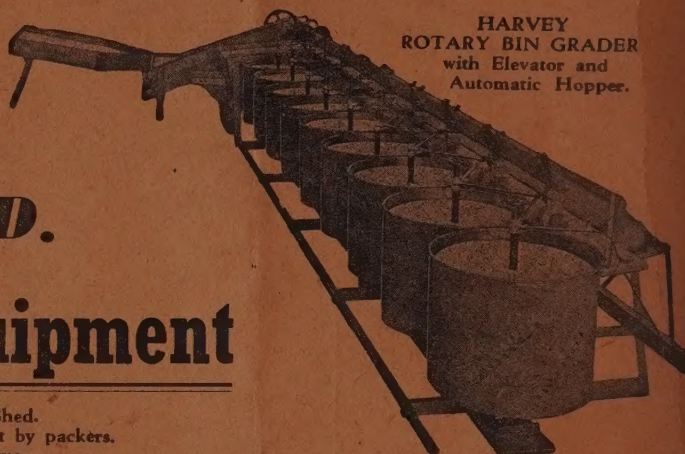
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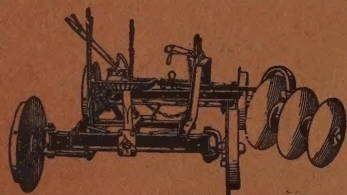
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# Dried Apples Demanded

TASMANIAN WAR EFFORT.

KILN SYSTEM IN TWO HUON EVAPORATORS DESCRIBED.

(By Our Travelling Representative.)

ONE pound of dried Apples is equivalent to eight pounds of fresh, whereas one pound of even solid pack Apples is equivalent to only two pounds of fresh. It was mainly for this reason, quite apart from the necessity of absorbing as much as possible of a crop surplus, that during the war, dehydrated Apples were in such urgent demand for dispatch to our troops in forward areas where transport difficulties were ruling factors. In addition they provided a light and nutritious diet varied with excellent keeping qualities.

For all of these reasons in Apple producing areas throughout the Commonwealth, and in Tasmania in particular, Apple evaporators were encouraged and production stepped up. Old established factories were urged to maximum out-put, and the new ones, which soon came into being were constantly advised and directed.

In this great war effort, production in Tasmania amounted in the peak year of 1944 to 2,000 tons weight of dried Apples, which represented 700,000 50 lb. bushels of fresh fruit. In 1945, production dropped to 1,500 tons, owing to unprecedented labour shortages and, in the latter part of the season, to the scarcity of fruit.

The Apple and Pear Marketing Board anticipates taking all the factories can dry in the coming season. In pre-war days total production for Tasmania was about 400 tons per annum; but, besides exploiting overseas markets, it is now hoped to dispose of at least 700 tons on the Australian domestic market.

The evaporating factories normally commenced operations in March and run till August though in '45 they continued into September. Employment is thus provided in the slack time when the orchards are dormant—for wood cutters, approximately 4 tons of fuel are consumed in the processing of a ton of dried Apples; for case makers, for carters, and for the actual factory hands. In fact, Mr. E. H. Thompson, the Secretary of the Tasmanian Apple Evaporators Association, estimates that £120 is circulated in the State for every ton produced.

The largest evaporation works in Tasmania is that of Mr. Burton at Cygnet. Perhaps the two best appointed are the Commonwealth Government's works at Dover and Henry Jones & Co.'s factory at Beauty Point. One of the oldest dehydrators in the Commonwealth is Mr. V. J. Skinner, who is the president of the Evaporators Association, with fifty years' experience behind him. His evaporator works at Huonville have been the pattern for all others in the State and were constructed on the American Kiln system back in 1912. Mr. Skinner investigated methods in America in 1908 and returned there in 1912 to examine the hot air kiln system which had been developed in

the intervening years. The present works were built to the plans and specifications he then brought back, though many improvements have been since effected.

Likewise, his son, Mr. Neil J. Skinner was responsible for redesigning the Coon's American peeling and coring machine—making it altogether more compact, recasting the worm drive, eliminating a multiplicity of chain drive belts, and adjusting the two automatic feeders to alternate instead of rising simultaneously.

## Solid Pack Pre-War.

Before the war, Mr. Skinner was turning out the well-known King Victor brand of Solid Pack Apples, for which the plant capacity was 1,000 6 lb. tins per day. A sample tin was opened in my presence. Packed six years ago, and since stored in an outhouse, it opened in perfection—Sturmers in a truly solid pack with no surplus juice, of wonderful colour and sweetness. The secret was rapid steam-pressure cooking; it dries the moisture and turns the acid to sugar before there is any loss of flavour.

The process is simple. The fruit is peeled, cored and sliced, then passed through a brine vat to prevent discolouration, then into the cooker for 1 to 1½ minutes, which loses no flavour unlike the usual 3 to 4 minutes of other systems.

With the call for dried Apples the change back was simple and the only part of the plant not in use was the cooker. In the peak year of 1944, between the months of March and August 130,000 50 lb. bushels of fresh fruit were dried and the only overtime worked was for packing in the evenings.

## Roller Conveyors Save Manpower.

Boxes in which the fruit is delivered are provided to the growers, and reception into the factory is by two roller conveyor tables which, it

is maintained, save the labour of three men in carrying.

The fruit is peeled and cored in the Smith and Searles machines—ranged in two separate batteries of five. Each battery serves a separate but duplicate drying plant. The factory is thus divided into two independent sections which may be run singly or simultaneously.

Central heating—a necessary amenity on the Huon in the Winter—is provided by means of hot water pipes fitted beneath the inspection benches.

Conveyor belts discharge the waste into bins outside for removal by truck to Hobart for pectin extraction by the Port Huon Co-op. Assocn. Ltd.

## Sulphur Box.

Conveyor belts with stainless steel sweeps, likewise, lift the fruit to the drying floor, where it first passes through a sulphur box. There are two of these, each serving a battery of peelers and corers. Each has its link chain drive fitted externally, which precludes grease contamination of the fruit.

Propelled by a 100 to 1 worm reduction drive, an apron bears the fruit through a 40 ft. long box in the space of 45 minutes.

Fumes at the exit end are taken back by a return, and any that escape as the fruit is discharged into the slicers are drawn off by a blower and expelled outside the building.

## Eleven Kilns.

The fruit having passed through the slicer is taken by hand trucks into the evaporating rooms—of which there are eleven. Fitted with Queensland hoop pine slatted floor, which unlike hardwood does not stain the fruit, each room measures 20 x 20 ft., and has 8 ft. high cement sheet lined walls, and a full monitor type roof with open ventilation.

Floor temperature is maintained at 130 deg. by means of a furnace 16 ft. below each drying floor. The furnaces are fitted with 12 x 4 ft. domes instead of the usual 6 x 4 ft.—thus affording increased radiation with need for less piping.

Twenty 28 lb. cases of Apples are spread on each floor at a time and with two turnings allowed 10 hours to dry.

The dried Apples are then removed to sweating bins on the same floor and allowed to cool off and season for 4 days.

Under the supervision of inspectors, who call every other day, a maximum 18% moisture content, is prescribed for export dried Apples; 20% being allowed for those intended for the home market.

The minimum permissible sulphur content of 3 grns. to the pound is assured by a dusting of meta bisulphide at the rate of approximately 1 oz. to the 28 lb. case in which the finished article is packed. The cases are passed by chute to trucks for shipping.

## Economy of Production—Assembly Line Methods.

Mr. L. H. Roberts has a similar hot air kiln evaporating works at Glen Huon, which was re-built three years ago after a disastrous fire.

Here economy of production is a science carefully thought out, and based on an uninterrupted continuity from the point of delivery of the raw article to the point of dispatch of the finished product.

The cases are returned to the growers immediately upon delivery of the Apples. One man keeps the girls supplied with fruit for the six Smith and Searls' peeling and coring machines. The trimmers relieve the feeders in rotation—it was observed that if the trimmers were sent to the feeder instead of the reverse, the loss of the machine running empty was avoided.

That experience means increased speed and efficiency was clearly demonstrated when the totals for two consecutive seasons were compared. The same team worked the same machines, run at the same speed, in both seasons, but, without any perceptible effort, increased their output by an average of 100 bushels per day in the second season. Thus, the



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It is invaluable to the home gardener as it can be used on vegetables with perfect safety and will readily control all the more common insect pests.

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### TASMANIA:

A. G. Webster & Sons, Hobart.  
Henry Jones & Co., Launceston.

### WEST AUSTRALIA:

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## PATENTS

George A. U'Ren  
Patent Attorney

"OSBORNE HOUSE,"

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## Calling All Fruitgrowers . . .

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The Chamber is prepared to receive Consignments in Bulk lots for distribution to any of these Agents. No charge will be made to the Grower for this service. Further particulars from the Secretary, E. B. P. BROOKS, Exchange Chambers, Turbot Street, Brisbane. Telegraphic Address: "Chamberfruit," B'ne.

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( RED PALE AND WHITE )

VACUUM OIL COMPANY PTY LTD. (Incorporated in Australia)

daily difference between experience and inexperience was shown to have been approximately 17 bushels per machine.

The Apples pass through the 40 ft. sulphur box in 35 minutes and then through the slicer. They are then hand trucked to the drying floors and spread 4 inches thick.

Four kilns serve six evaporating rooms which are floored with 1½ in. x ¾ in. slightly V shaped hardwood slats placed roughly ½ in. apart, hardwood being preferred for its durability.

Weekly fuel consumption is 30 tons of wood. Mr. Roberts claims to save £7 a week by keeping the fire well back in the furnace. Then the air enters the front of the fire and is heated in passing over it on the way to the flue—which becomes the radiation pipe is set beneath the slatted floor. If on the other hand the fire is built forward, the air mostly passes under it and straight up the flue.

The furnaces are kept going throughout the night. An attendant, coming on at 7 p.m. and going at 4 a.m., is able to take off another floor of dried apples—and the increased production on the "Smith and Searles" peeling machines is coped with.

Taken from the evaporating rooms, the fruit is spread on the 44 x 64 ft. curing floor and allowed to stand for three days.

The man on the slicer in his spare time papers the boxes in preparation for the packers, who work on the assembly line principle—one carries and dumps the dried fruit, one weighs, one packs and presses, and one nails and stacks. All in a space of 16 x 25 ft., without an unnecessary step, and at the rate of 110 28 lb. boxes an hour.

In 1945 in 17 weeks, 42,000 weighed bushels of fresh Apples were processed for a pack of 9,700 28 lb. boxes. In 1944 in 26 weeks, 55,000 bushels for a pack of 12,300 boxes.

### CATTLE TICK INVESTIGATIONS.

#### Value of D.D.T.

The value of D.D.T. in the control of cattle tick is emphasised in a Bulletin recently by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

It is of particular interest to learn that laboratory and field experiments have shown that D.D.T. is a highly effective substance for the control of the cattle tick, and it readily destroys ticks in all stages, including those that are resistant to arsenic dips; also, that an outstanding feature is that unattached seed ticks, which are unaffected by arsenical dips, are very susceptible to D.D.T.

The report further indicates that there is also a persistent effect, all seed ticks reaching an animal during a period of ten to twelve days after treatment with a 2 per cent. D.D.T. emulsion being killed.

There is a shortage of D.D.T., and it is reported that a new type of emulsion has been developed by the Chemical Division of Taubmans which, added to water in the right proportion, will give the required concentration of D.D.T.

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452 Queen St., Melbourne, Vic.



## Interstate Conference of Apple and Pear Growers

A Conference of the Apple and Pear Growers' State Organizations was held in Melbourne on 5th and 6th December, 1945, at the Commercial Travellers' Club.

Delegates were:— Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, Brisbane: Messrs. G. G. Fry, D. G. L. Gow and B. Flewell Smith. N.S.W. Apple and Pear Growers' Association: Messrs. W. B. Pascoe, H. V. Smith and A. G. Enticknap, M.L.A.. Victorian Fruitgrowers' Council: Messrs. D. W. Lechte, G. W. Brown and V. A. H. Clark. State Fruit Board, Tasmania: Messrs. T. G. Thompson, R. H. Thompson and J. R. Abel. S. A. Fruit Growers' and Market Gardeners' Association: Messrs. C. L. Winser, M. J. Vickers and A. Stuart. West Australian Fruit Growers' Association: Messrs. G. Parke, E. S. Hester and H. W. Soothill.

Mr. W. B. Pascoe was elected Chairman.

Mr. B. Rasdall was elected Secretary.

Moved A. G. Enticknap, seconded H. V. Smith:—"That an Australian Council of Apple and Pear Growers be formed." Carried.

The following delegates were elected to draft a constitution: Messrs. G. G. Fry (Q.), H. V. Smith (N.S.W.), G. W. Brown (Vic.), R. H. Thompson (Tas.), A. Stuart (S.A.), and H. W. Soothill (W.A.).

Moved H. W. Soothill, seconded H. V. Smith:—"That the Apple and Pear Board be reconstituted before June, 1946." Carried.

Moved H. W. Soothill, seconded M. Vickers:—"That the first appointment of growers' representatives of the reconstituted Board be the nominees of State Growers' Organizations, such appointees to hold office only until a poll of the growers as to the continuation of the Organization Act is taken and voting as to growers' representatives is held, such votes to be taken within 12 months of the reconstitution of the Board." Carried.

Moved G. W. Brown, seconded H. V. Smith:—"If the continuation of a Board is decided upon all members of the Board shall be bona fide fruitgrowers directly elected by growers or statutory State Board or officers of a bona fide fruitgrowers' organisation and not appointed by the Government, that the Chairman be a fruitgrower or an officer of a bona fide fruitgrowers' organization, members to be elected to the Board by growers with a minimum of two acres under cultivation." Carried.

Moved H. V. Smith, seconded A. G. Enticknap:—"That a reciprocal trade agreement with the United States and Canada under which imports of U.S.A. and Canadian Apples might be permitted into Australia at certain periods and vice versa should be explored." Carried.

Moved T. G. Thompson, seconded J. R. Abel:—"That this Conference favours the Commonwealth Government's guaranteeing minimum prices for Apples and Pears in future and refers this for examination to the Apple and Pear Growers' Council." Carried.

Moved H. V. Smith:—"That wartime restrictions on Apples and Pears be removed." Carried.

Moved J. R. Abel, seconded R. G. Thompson:—"That representations be made for increased supplies of locally cut cases and that the Tariff Board be asked to allow case timber to be imported duty free." Carried.

Moved G. W. Brown, seconded V. A. H. Clark:—"That in any allocations of money by Governments to increase production a fixed proportionate amount be allocated to the selling of same." Carried.

Moved H. W. Soothill, seconded G. W. Brown:—"That every endeavour be made to conclude international arrangements to provide for distant periods for marketing of Apples and Pears in the United Kingdom according to countries of production; also if possible on the Continent and if achieved that import duty be modified." Carried.

Moved H. V. Smith, seconded H. W. Soothill:—"That the Australian Apple and Pear Council investigate means of raising funds for advertising the Apple and Pear Industry both at home and abroad." Carried.

Moved H. W. Soothill:—"That the type of body to administer the Apple and Pear Publicity and Research Act be referred to the Apple and Pear Growers' Council." Carried.

Moved H. W. Soothill that the following resolutions from Western Australia be referred to the Council: "The Apple and Pear Publicity and Research Act (Number 61 of 1938) and the Apple and Pear Tax Assessment Act Number of 1938) be brought into effect for the 1947 Season."

"The Apple and Pear Publicity and Research Act be administered by an Apple and Pear Sales Development Committee to consist of the growers' representatives on the Executive of the Australian Apple and Pear Board as constituted under Act No. 58 of 1938 together with one representative each of growers in N.S.W. and in Queensland and one representative each of local market salesmen in N.S.W. and Queensland."

"The Apple and Pear Export Charges Act be brought into effect for the 1946 season."

"Commonwealth Government publicity for Apples and Pears be resumed as soon as supplies warrant." Carried.

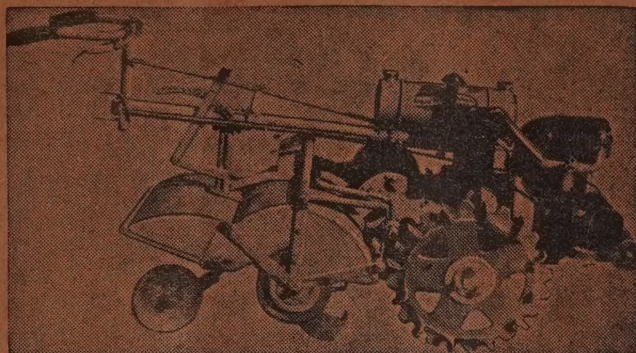
Moved H. V. Smith, seconded J. R. Abel:—"That a tree variety census be asked for in each State showing trees by variety 8 years old and over, trees by variety under 8 years of age."

Moved A. G. Enticknap, seconded L. Winser:—"That the Commonwealth Government or State Governments be asked to prohibit the sale of synthetic fruit juices under the name of fruit juices (Referred to Council)."

Moved H. V. Smith, seconded J. R. Abel:—"That the Australian Apple and Pear Growers' Council be requested to give consideration to the principle on which import licences for fruit wrapping material are issued."

Moved H. W. Soothill, seconded G. Parke:—"That the powers under the Apple and Pear Organization Act be amended and expanded to provide for effective control of the conditions of

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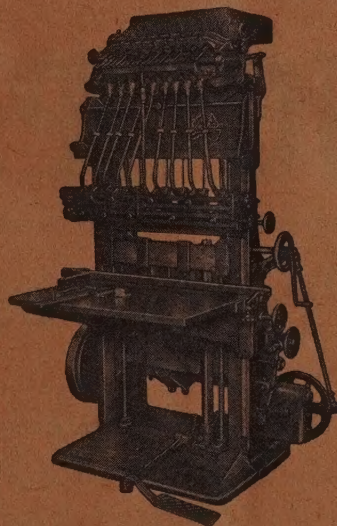
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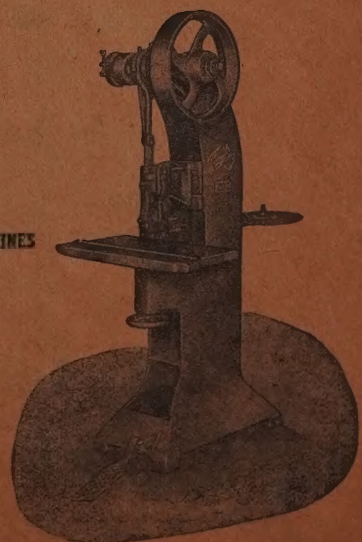
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Corrugated Fastener Closing Machine.



sale for export of Australian Apples and Pears and also (as in similar Acts) of the conditions of sale and distribution after export."

Moved J. R. Abel, seconded R. G. Thompson—"That the Council consider the possibility of holding an all Australian Fruit Exhibition in Hobart or some other City of the Commonwealth." Carried.

Moved G. W. Brown, seconded G. G. Fry—"That the Apple and Pear Growers' Council make the necessary arrangements for representation at the Empire Conference to be held in London about May, 1946." Carried.

Moved H. W. Soothill, seconded V. Clark—"That standards for Apples and Pears for export to be maintained and the enforcement thereof be improved especially as to maturity."

A comprehensive plan for the export of Apples and Pears prepared by the South Australian delegation was referred to Council for consideration at a later date.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the Chairman, Secretary and the Victorian Association for their interest in arranging the conference and also to the Commercial Travellers' Club for the use of the room and building.

Provisional Constitution of Apple and Pear Growers' Association as Adopted at a Conference of State Apple and Pear Growers' Organizations held

5th and 6th December, 1945.

Provisional Constitution:

The name of the proposed organization shall be the Apple and Pear Growers' Association.

The objects shall be:

- (1) To watch the interests of the growers in connection with any existing or proposed legislation or regulations affecting production and marketing of Apples and Pears.
- (2) To co-operate with other bodies having similar objects to the foregoing.
- (3) To generally co-ordinate the efforts of the various State bodies to improve conditions existing at any time in the industry and to represent them in other matters relating to the production and distribution of Apples and Pears.

Membership.—That the Members of this Association shall be the principal bona fide fruit growers' association in each State representative of Apple and Pear Growers in each State provided that only one such body is represented.

Meeting.—There shall be an annual general meeting to be held in the last quarter of each year.

Each State shall be entitled to be represented on the Council up to three delegates.

Voting.—In respect to export matters that the voting by States be as follows:—Queensland and N.S.W., one each; Victoria, South Aust and West Aust., two each; Tasmania, five—Total, thirteen.

In respect of matters other than export one State one vote.

The question of determining whether a matter is export or not be in the hands of the Chairman.

Finance.—For the time being each State contribute £50. At the beginning of each year and up to a further £50, if required during the year. The first £50 to be paid forthwith; the possibility of access to the balance of the funds of the Apple and Pear Council be examined by the Executive.

Officers.—The Association shall annually elect a President, Vice-President from the accredited representatives, or delegates.

Executive.—That the Executive consist of the President, and one representative from each State, and the President shall have no vote.

Interpretation.—When the necessity for a clarification of these rules arises the President shall give a ruling, provided that if the President's ruling be challenged the matter shall then be decided by the Executive or Council.

The following two motions were also agreed to:—

That the drawing up of a complete set of rules and constitution be referred to the incoming executive committee for report back to the next General Meeting of the Council.

That the New South Wales representatives, Mr. Pascoe, President, and Mr. Rasdall, Secretary, be asked to carry on in a provisional capacity until the Council meet.

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# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS AND NOTES

Official Reports and Notes of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association.

## S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association Inc.

Minutes of executive committee meeting held in the New Market Board Room on Friday, January 25, 1946.

Mr. A. R. Martin, President of the Association presided over the meeting which was attended by the following Committeemen: Messrs. H. B. Robson, L. B. Pfeiffer, A. D. McAllan, J. D. Yateman, J. Turner, M. Hannaford, H. K. Caldicott, W. Wye, R. H. Cramond, G. H. Schultz, J. A. Randall, S. G. Edwards, R. B. Pritchard, W. J. Bishop, C. J. Pitt, C. H. Kentish, A. G. Strickland (Chief Horticulturist), and the Secretary (A. Stuart).

Apologies were received from Messrs. B. C. Pitman, L. J. Wicks, N. T. Hobbs.

The minutes of the November meeting as reported in the "Fruit World" were confirmed.

The President extended a special welcome to Mr. C. H. Kentish, President of the S.E. Potato Growers' Association who was attending his first executive committee meeting.

Correspondence: A letter was received from the Retail Fruiters and Greengrocers' Association, stating that their members had been advised that in future all retailers are asked not to supply cases to growers when purchasing fruit in half-case or case lots. On the motion of Messrs. Bishop and Pitt, the letter was received. Mr. Turner moved: "That the letter be referred to the chairman of the Soft Fruit Section." This was seconded by Mr. Bishop and carried.

The S.E. Potato Growers' Association wrote enclosing a list of members for the year ending August 31, 1946, also a cheque for members' fees. On the motion of Messrs. Cramond and Robson the correspondence was received.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Australian Potato Committee, stating that the Deputy Potato Controller in South Australia (Mr. Stuart) would be released from his duties as from 31/12/45. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the very meritorious and efficient service rendered by Mr. Stuart during his term of administration. The President of the Association, Mr. Mar-

tin, replied to the above letter and thanked the Committee for releasing Mr. Stuart so that he could assume full-time duties with the Association. Messrs. Wye and Robson moved that the correspondence be received. This was carried.

### Sectional and Branch Reports.

Society: Mr. Bishop reported that trading was being maintained as well as the supplies would allow. Manures were very scarce, and until more petrol was available to carriers to collect bones, the position did not look like improving to any extent. The new premises were nearing completion, and it was hoped to occupy them at an early date. The selling floor was doing fair business and the case position was much brighter than it was this time last year. Plenty of softwood boxes were available. The packing house would be ready for the start of the Apple season.

Cherry Section: Mr. Bishop said that the season had finished, but it was a light crop generally. The brown rot had been very prevalent, and the section would be calling a meeting in the near future to hear Mr. Strickland and other officers of the Department of Agriculture on the activities of brown rot, and probable means of combating the trouble.

Vegetable Section: Mr. McAllan stated that there was a scarcity of all vegetables, and the Bean crop had been a failure. The failure of the Pea crop might be caused by inferior seed.

Celery Section: Mr. Martin reported that the initial meeting of the Section had been held and Mr. M. Packer had been appointed chairman. Planting for the new season had started.

S.E. Potato Growers' Association: Mr. Kentish said that their branch was fairly strong, and the crops should be reasonably good. Rains had fallen in the area and would be of assistance.

Paracombe Branch: Mr. Brealey stated that the cold store was closed at present, but they were preparing for the coming season. There should be good crops in the district. A field day had been arranged for February 26, to which he invited the members to attend.

Gumeracha Branch: Mr. Randell reported that the cold store was empty, but the prospects of a good crop of Apples was very bright. The

Pear crop was very light. The recent rains had done a lot of good.

Cudlee Creek Branch: Mr. Hannaford stated that there were good crops in the district, but like other districts the cold store was empty.

Kersbrook Branch: Mr. Edwards reported that they were expecting to get under way with Duchess Pears very soon. All the fruit was doing well, and although hail had done damage to crops, it was not expected that it would be as bad as at first thought.

Onkaparinga Branch: Mr. Pfeiffer said that Potato crops would be light, and Deleware had been attacked by the Rutherglen bug. The recent rains had caused them to almost completely disappear. The mid-season Carmens may not be so seriously affected. Mr. Pfeiffer asked Mr. Kentish how the bug had affected plants in the Mount Gambier district. Mr. Kentish said that the bug was strongly in evidence, but rain had helped to eliminate them. Cutworms seem to be attacking ripening tubers, but the crops should be reasonably good. Mr. Strickland said that he was pleased to hear that the losses by the bug were not as serious as at first thought. He had been successful in getting some DDT dust which should check the bug. DDT dust should not be used on soft fruits, but a benzine emulsion was quite effective. Undoubtedly the rain had checked the bug, but a spell of dry weather might cause them to appear again.

Apple and Pear Section: Mr. Stuart said that the Apple and Pear Committee had met, and the Swedish order had been finalised. They would be shipped in March and April, and the English order would be shipped about April. The Canadian box would be used in the Swedish order and about 50 per cent. of the English order would be packed in Canadians. Australian softwoods would be used for the remainder of the order.

Mr. Brealey said that a meeting of S.A.F.M.A. would be held that afternoon, and most probably the matter of Apples to be exported would be discussed at that meeting. Mr. Randall said that the meeting would be held in the Wool Exchange.

Early Cauliflower Section: Mr. Pritchard said that the section hoped to have a meeting next week. Cauliflowers were not ready to cut yet, but should be ready soon.

### General Business.

Conference: Mr. Stuart said that the Minister of Agriculture was desirous of meeting the Chairman and Secretary of the Association, also Messrs. Pitt and Kentish at 3 p.m. this day.

On the motion of Messrs. Randall and Wye it was agreed that the above mentioned should meet the Minister as requested.

Loud Speaker and Apparatus: Messrs. Pritchard and McAllan moved: "That the Secretary's action in submitting a tender for the purchase of the loud speaker and apparatus be endorsed." Carried.

Leave of Absence: On the motion of Messrs. Wye and Robson, it was agreed that the Secretary be granted leave of absence when he desires his holidays in March.

Minute of Appreciation: Mr. McAllan moved: "That a minute of appreciation be placed on the books for the very instructive talk that Mr. Stuart had made over the air recently on co-operative marketing." Seconded Mr. Wye and carried.

## THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FRUIT MARKETING ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the S.A.F.M.A. was held at Adelaide on 25th January.

There were present: Messrs. J. B. Randall (Chairman), P. R. B. Searcy, R. O. Knappstein, F. F. Redden, A. Brealey, C. L. Winser, R. B. Pritchard, R. A. Cramond, H. N. Wicks, L. J. Bishop and E. W. Mills (Secretary).



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R. H. STOWE, Secretary.

Apologies were received from Messrs. A. G. Strickland, A. R. Willsmore, M. G. Basey.

**Finance:** Audited financial statement for the year ended 31st August, 1945, was submitted by the Secretary and received. Secretary reported there was no alteration since 31st August.

**Secretary:** The Secretary stated that if the Association proposed to recommence activities he wished to tender his resignation, but he was quite willing to carry on nominally while the Association was in recess. This was agreed to.

A general discussion followed on the future activities of the Association.

## Annual General Meeting.

The seventeenth annual general meeting of the S.A.F.M.A. was held at Adelaide January 25.

Chairman, the President, Mr. J. B. Randell, occupied the chair.

**Finance:** The financial statement for the year ended August 31, 1946, duly audited, was read by the Secretary.

**Executive Committee Report:** The President presented the report of the Executive Committee. He expressed pleasure at the fact that since the last annual meeting the war had ended, he hoped that the many problems now before the United Nations would be satisfactorily settled before the next annual meeting, and that we should be back to normal conditions, with goodwill established between all nations.

He moved the adoption of the report and financial statement. This was seconded by Mr. P. R. B. Searcy and carried unanimously.

**Election of Officers:** Patron, Hon. T. Playford was unanimously re-elected as Patron. Committees: The following were re-elected:—

**Growers (6 voting members):** Messrs. A. Brealey, M. G. Basey, S. M. James, R. O. Knappstein, A. O. Peterson, H. N. Wicks.

**Growers (Auxiliary Committee):** Messrs. R. A. Cramond, R. G. Hannaford, R. H. A. Lewis, W. W. Miller, T. Playford, R. B. Pritchard, F. F. Redden, A. G. Strickland, M. J. Vickers, C. L. Winsor, W. Nicol.

**Shippers (4 voting members):** Messrs. L. J. Bishop, D. W. Hannaford, P. R. B. Searcy, A. R. Willsmore. **Auxiliary Committee:** Messrs. G. S. Queale, L. G. Heading, H. M. Charlick, W. Hayman.

**Levy:** The following motion was moved by Mr. Brealey, and seconded by Mr. Winsor: "That owing to existing circumstances, no levy be charged on fruit shipped overseas this season."

An amendment was moved by Mr. G. S. Queale, and seconded by Mr. F. F. Redden: "That a levy of 1d. per case be struck for the current season on all fruit shipped overseas."

The amendment was carried, then put as the motion and carried.

**O.S.R.A. Committee:** Mr. L. J. Bishop was appointed as the Association representative, with the right to appoint a deputy, to attend any meetings that may be called by Overseas Shipping Representatives' Association, to discuss the question of returning to a pre-war basis for freight distribution, etc.

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# Tasmanian News and Notes

FRUIT CROP DEVELOPING WELL — FRUIT CASE POSITION  
DIFFICULT — MARKETING LEGISLATION — PEST CONTROL

— NEWS AND NOTES. —

(By Our Correspondent.)

Hobart (20/1/46).

THE SEASON in the North continues favourable to growth, there having been two serviceable rains recently. "All varieties are well up to size and clean, with few exceptions. The crop in these areas should be up to normal. Efforts are being made to get the overseas ships to call at Beauty Point and Devonport this fruit season. Devonport can now accommodate large vessels, as the harbour has been dredged. Considerable quantities of other produce are also offering there for overseas shipment.

In the South the weather to date has remained on the dry side, and rain is badly needed. The Apples and Pears have not stopped growing yet, but are on the point of getting a check to their growth. Cox's Orange appear to be very good and will be wanted for overseas shipments. Jons. and Cleos. are also well up to size for the time of year, and provided rain comes in time, will both yield satisfactorily, and will be wanted for overseas. G. Smith are heavy in most orchards, and Sturmers average a good crop. They will both be wanted for the late shipments. Democraats are definitely light, and in many instances the trees are getting an unhealthy look, and stopping making wood. Personally, I don't consider them a satisfactory variety from a grower's point of view.

Codling moth does not appear to be prevalent this season, but, of course, may show up later. Red Spider is getting troublesome in places, and will require a summer oil application. Canary fly has not made its appearance in any quantity.

Unless the dry weather continues, Tasmania will not have any difficulty in meeting the overseas, interstate and local demand in spite of hail damage.

There are some good crops of Packham's, B. Bosc, but Winter Coles are on the light side.

The case material position is not satisfactory, as several mills were burnt in the recent fires, and there is still a risk of more fires unless general rain comes soon.

## Marketing Legislation.

The State Government recently passed legislation to enable producers to establish Marketing Boards, but at present there is no indication what sections of primary producers intend to avail themselves of the chance. Some growers are definitely opposed to the idea. The labour position is getting a little easier, but there is a great difficulty in getting house accommodation in the country districts, and the Government housing scheme only appears to include suburban areas. The private individual cannot get materials to house himself or prospective employees and so rehabilitation is not going on as satisfactorily as it might in the country districts.

A general easing up in all these controls is badly needed.

The enquiry being conducted by a Judge from the mainland into alleged irregularities in the administration of the Forestry Department is arousing a good deal of public interest.

The berry fruits suffered severely from the dry spell and in many instances there was little more than half the usual crop. Apricots also suffered badly.

Messrs. H. Jones & Co.'s factory has been disorganised for some time owing to a boiler bursting and doing considerable damage which will take some time to repair. This is very unfortunate, as the Williams Pears will be ready for processing soon.

## NORTHERN TASMANIA.

The fruit crop in Northern Tasmania, has benefited a great deal from recent rains; during the early part of January approx. 2 in. of rain were recorded in the Tamar Valley with slightly less in the Mersey Areas.

Growers generally are anticipating a fairly busy season, especially as regards packing with the increased amount of fruit required by the Apple and Pear Marketing Board for overseas shipment. The supply of local case timber appears to be very satisfactory and with the expected arrival of imported pine case there should be no case shortage.

What appears to be the greatest difficulty for the coming season is the shortage of packers, other labour for the presentation of the crop will undoubtedly be available.

The Department of Agriculture conducts packing classes at the schools in all fruit growing districts, yet a difficult feature of the situation is that the majority of those pupils on leaving school find employment away from the fruit industry.

## PERSONAL ITEMS.

Mr. Keith Wright, the eldest son of Mr. H. C. Wright of "Glendale Orchard," Sidmouth, Tasmania, who recently married Miss Madge Lees, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Lees, of "Brettoneaux," Glengarry, have taken over the "Machli-Tal" orchards from Mr. A. A. Pike, at Spreyton.

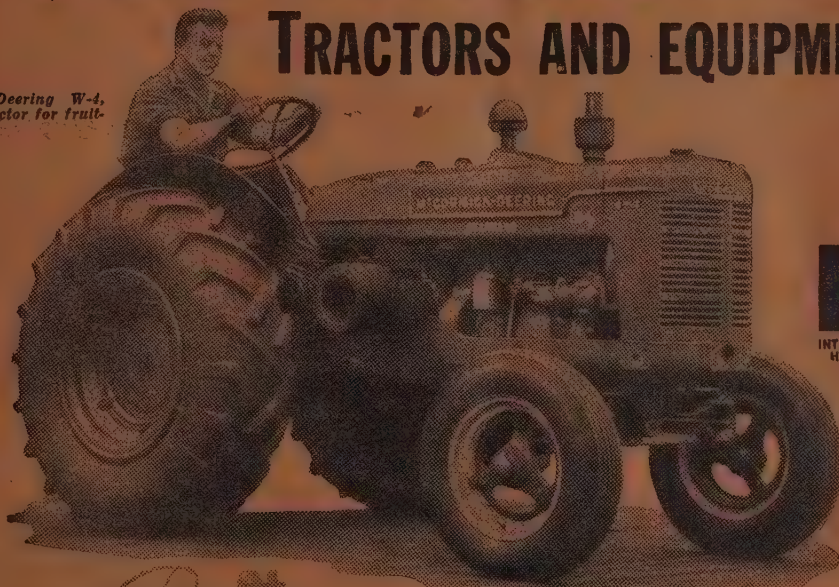
Mr. A. H. Reid, of Exter, who has always held the name of one of the finest packs in Tasmania has had to give up orcharding owing to ill health.

Mr. Cecil Medwin of "Highview" East Tamar, recently purchased "Windermere" and is leaving orcharding to become a grazier.

Mr. Jack Hewitt of "Limberlost," Kayena, intends to take a spell from orcharding with the return of his sons from the war, and he has accepted a temporary position as a measuring officer with the Department of Agriculture.

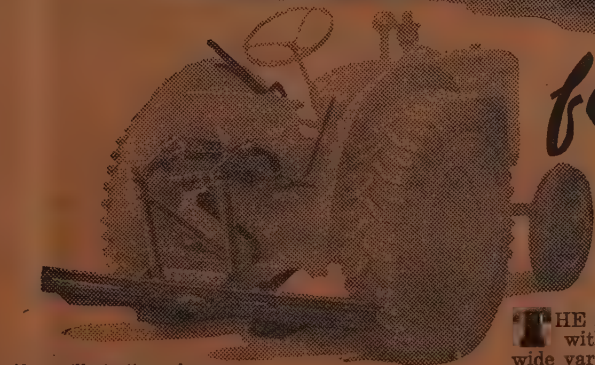
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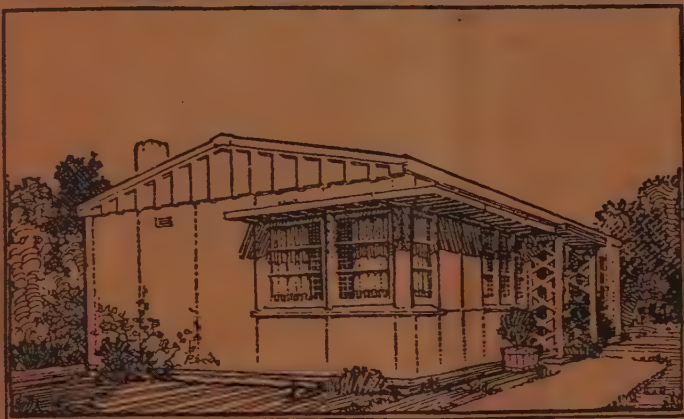
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# Goulburn Valley News and Notes

(By Our Correspondent.)

Shepparton (18/1/46).

## Apricot Harvesting Completed.

Harvesting of the Apricot crop has now been completed after a very worrying time for growers, due to the ravages of the Rutherglen fly.

At the time the crop was reaching maturity the Health Board had not given its ruling on the use of D.D.T. for such crops as Apricots, Plums and market Pears, with the result that Apricots could not be sprayed with it.

The Board met early in January, and decided that a residue of not more than seven parts in a million was permissible, as the residue on fruit sprayed with the recommended strength, namely (one gallon to two hundred) is less than this, much valuable fruit could have been saved for canning had this decision been reached earlier.

With light crops and tons of Apricots not being fit to pick because of fly damage, no shortage of labour was experienced, the organised camp of public school boys again supplying the bulk of the labour required.

## Labour for Pears and Peaches.

Estimates of labour needed for the Pear and what remains of the Peach crop are also very much lower than previous years.

Men are being supplied through the National Service organisation, and already they are arriving daily in preparation for the Pear picking.

A few growers have already made deliveries to the local cannery. Most growers anticipated a start this week, but the rain, though welcome, has made conditions bad for picking, especially where, as was the case with the majority of growers, an irrigation had just been finished, it will probably be another week before picking commences in earnest.

## Codling and D.D.T.

So far not much codling is showing up, but as the second brood moths are now emerging, a further spray is recommended by the Advisory Committee. It will be necessary to follow this with another when the peak of this brood is reached, possibly about nine or ten days later, when the addition of full strength white oil as an ovicide is advised.

Where growers have a supply of D.D.T. left over from that released for the Rutherglen fly on the Peaches, it is anticipated that they will use it on Pears for the next Codling spray.

As has been pointed out on several occasions by Departmental officers and the manufacturers, only small scale experiments have been possible, owing to shortage of supply. These experiments, though very promising, are by no means conclusive. The effect of the spray is not as lasting as was anticipated, and results have shown that immunity from Rutherglen fly, after a spraying, is not more than about two weeks, the same applies to the codling spray.

Small grubs have been observed in Pears that have been recently sprayed with D.D.T. Therefore, it would not be advisable to place too much reliance on it until the Department can make recommendations in the light of their further experiments.

As lead arsenate can be safely used in conjunction with it, it would seem advisable at this stage to use that combination.

## Rutherglen Fly Peach Damage.

Rutherglen fly continues to attack the Peaches, though not in such numbers as previously. It was thought that the life cycle of the fly was over, as they diminished in number considerably about the second week in January, but growers report them to be on the increase again.

Good falls of rain were recorded in the Shepparton area last week, and it is hoped that this will bring the infestation to an end.

Where 75 per cent. of the crop has been marked, no attempt is likely to be made to harvest the balance, as the cost of picking and sorting would be more than the fruit would be worth.

Experiments are to be made at the local canneries with slightly marked Peaches, with a view to removing the marks by increased caustic immersion.

It is to be hoped that these efforts will be successful, if 15 per cent. or 20 per cent. marked Peaches could be used, it would then be worth while for the grower, with only 25 per cent. clean fruit to make the attempt to harvest them.

## CITRUS CULTURE.

### Shedding Can Be Reduced.

THAT THE SHEDDING OF BLOSSOM and young fruit of Orange and Lemon trees could be minimised was stated recently by Mr. R. J. Benton, Citrus Expert, N.S.W. Dept. of Agric.

With portion of the best growing period of the year still ahead, stated Mr. Benton, the opportunity existed for inducing trees prone to weakness and prolific flowering to attain a better condition of health.

Production of larger sized and denser foliage increased the ability of the tree to absorb, synthesise and store nutrients, to a greater degree. Trees should thus hold blossom and young fruit better.

Mr. Benton said the factors mostly responsible at this time for improving the status of tree health were:

1. Adequate manuring applied to the area of land where a healthy root system is capable of absorbing its needs.
2. Carefully applied irrigations at intervals to meet the trees' requirements.
3. Avoiding tillage except when necessary to destroy weed growth becoming competitive with trees for moisture and accomplished by very shallow methods for destruction.

Though greater vitality is induced by practices as suggested it is probable that some disappointment with future settings of crop can be anticipated because so many of our trees are grown in localities where great extremes of climate are experienced.

The tree demand for moisture fluctuates violently when temperatures very suddenly change by as much as 20 degrees and even more, in a very few hours.

The rate of transpiration is probably even more variable than the temperature, for low humidities often accompany high temperatures with disastrous effects to young setting fruit.

The adverse effects of climatic influences cannot be readily combated, but may be minimised by building the constitution of the tree to resist such detrimental effects.

## CITRUS CONTROL ORDERS

The Citrus Fruits Order, 1945, regulating the distribution of citrus fruits is still in operation according to advice received by the Federal Citrus Council from the Commonwealth Food Control, stated Mr. G. Kerr, Marketing Officer of the Federal Citrus Council.

The directions under the Order relating to the delivery of quotas of Oranges have been suspended until further notice, but all the provisions of the Order, including the restrictions on the sale and distribution of fresh Grapefruit without authority; the right to issue directions for the equitable distribution of the fresh Orange and Lemon crop and the obligation of packers to submit returns have so far not been varied.

The quotas of Oranges and Lemons formerly directed to defence factories may be the subject of a special direction as fresh fruit in the event of the distribution of the remaining crop becoming unbalanced or disorganised.

Mr. Kerr added that in view of the advanced stage of the harvest, the relaxation of the direction relating to the delivery of 25 per cent. of progress deliveries of Oranges to the factories would not relieve the market supply position to any material extent.

As regards the future of control orders, his personal and unofficial view was that there would be no need for the compulsory diversion of Oranges and Lemons as defence food supplies to the factories in the coming season, and that factory supplies could be obtained by free negotiation between the factories and the industry.

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### PREVENT FRUIT FROM DROPPING.

**A**PPLE AND PEAR GROWERS frequently suffer extensive losses through the dropping of fruit when it has almost reached maturity. Heat waves or high winds increase this tendency to drop, and the varieties most affected are the Williams' Pear and the Jonathan Apple.

Mr. G. W. Gayford, Horticultural Instructor of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, points out that such losses may be reduced by the

use of a chemical which, when sprayed on the tree at a dilution of approximately ten parts per million, will delay considerably the dropping of the fruit. The chemical is a substance which occurs naturally in plants in very small quantities, but is now manufactured synthetically. When sprayed on the trees, it is absorbed by the fruit and prevents the formation of corky tissue in the stalk of the fruit, the cause of the shedding.

The effect of one spraying lasts for about a fortnight. It is necessary,

therefore, to spray the trees about 8 to 10 days before the estimated harvest period. If a wind storm or heat wave is forecast before that time, a spray should be applied immediately and many cases of fruit may be saved. The chemical can be mixed with the usual leadarsenate or white oil sprays for codling moth control. If it is not desired to apply other sprays at full strength, use half a gallon of white oil emulsion in 100 gallons of spray to act as a spreader. Make sure the spraying is done thoroughly and it is advisable to use a

slightly larger quantity of spray per tree to ensure this.

By using this spray and reducing the danger of the fruit dropping, some growers may be tempted to delay harvesting Jonathans to obtain more highly coloured fruit. Picking should not be delayed beyond the normal harvest period, however, as this would result in disorders in cool store.

### A RABBIT REPELLING PAINT.

In young fruit tree plantations, where it is difficult to keep the boundary rabbit proof, protection against damage is sometimes obtained by the use of a repellent paint. At the present time these paints are of a tarry nature, rather unpleasant to use and occasionally harmful to young trees. It is therefore interesting to note that in Ontario, good results have been obtained by the use of a resin-alcohol solution. This repellent is easily prepared and is apparently not harmful to the tree even when the buds are covered.

It is made by dissolving 12 lb. of lump resin, finely crushed and sifted, in four gallons of commercial alcohol. Lump resin is essential as powdered resin has other foreign material in it that will not dissolve. The resin is added slowly and stirred until completely dissolved. The solution should then stand overnight. As alcohol evaporates readily the paint should be kept in an airtight can. The mixture is very inflammable and must not be placed near any kind of heat. When applying the solution, care must be taken to see that the bark is dry. If applied to moist bark, the solution will soon flake off.

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## DRIED FRUITS INDUSTRY.

Important items were dealt with at the December meeting of the Board of Management of the Australian Dried Fruits Association. It was decided to ask the C.S.I.R. to make further investigation into methods for combating frost damage.

**Publicity.**—With the approach of the cessation of war home orders, it was decided to launch a publicity drive to increase the consumption of dried fruits in Australia. Publicity in overseas markets will be the care of the Export Control Board.

Other items included Crop Insurance, Interstate Marine Insurance, Sales Tax Exemptions, Empire Trade Preference, Classification of Lexias and Green Tinge Sultanias, Distillery Currants.

On the subject of Dried Vine Fruit plantings, it was decided to approve of the appointment of a joint committee from the State Fruit Boards and the A.D.F.A. to conduct a survey.

**Waikerie Co-op. Fruit Co.**—In presenting the 31st annual report and balance sheet of the Waikerie Co-operative Fruit Co. Ltd., the Chairman, Mr. F. R. Francis, stated they had had a fairly good season. The dried fruit handled was 1,903 tons (971 tons below previous season). The record citrus pack of 153,749 bushels was an increase of over 13,000 bushels over the previous year. Extensive building additions were under consideration. There were changes in the directorate, owing to the lamented death of Mr. J. C. Rowe, the illness of Mr. C. R. Williams, and the resignation of Mr. J. B. Murdoch. The present Board consists of Messrs. F. R. Francis, J. L. Smith, J. H. Strangman, L. W. Andrew, and R. C. Isaacson; the general manager is Mr. Barclay.

Appreciation has been expressed to Mr. E. C. Orton, B.Sc., of the C.S.I.R. research station, Merbein, Vic., for his valued address at the A.D.F.A. Federal Council meeting on the Science of Dipping and Processing Dried Vine Fruits. Mr. Orton has concentrated on the many problems that developed following the adoption of the cold and mixed dip for producing light type fruits.

Sir Henry French, Permanent Secretary to the U.K. Ministry of Food, accompanied by Lady French, visited the Sunraysia dried fruits area recently, and assured growers that the U.K. wanted every ton of Australian dried fruits available. At a complimentary dinner interesting addresses were given by Messrs. E. H. Rawlings, A. E. Cameron, P. Malloch, and others. Sir Henry French told his audience not to become alarmed over what is going to happen in the next five or ten years.

## BURNLEY EGG-LAYING COMPETITION.

The thirty-sixth Burnley Egg-Laying Competition commences on April 1, 1946. The competition consists of single-test pens only, and classes are provided for all breeds of poultry.

Entry forms and full particulars may be obtained on application to the Chief Veterinary Inspector, Live Stock Division, Department of Agriculture, Melbourne, C.2. Entries close on March 5, 1946.

## RUTHERGLEN BUG.

The Rutherglen Bug has caused damage to fruit crops in the Murray Valley areas of S. Australia. The Departmental Horticultural Officer in the Waikerie district (Mr. C. G. Grasby) reports some success with Benzene emulsion. The method of preparation is to take seven gallons of water, bringing this almost to boiling point, stirring in 1 lb. of soap, then adding 1 gal. benzene: this should be emulsified by pouring from one vessel to another: Add water to make 15 gallons and spray thoroughly.

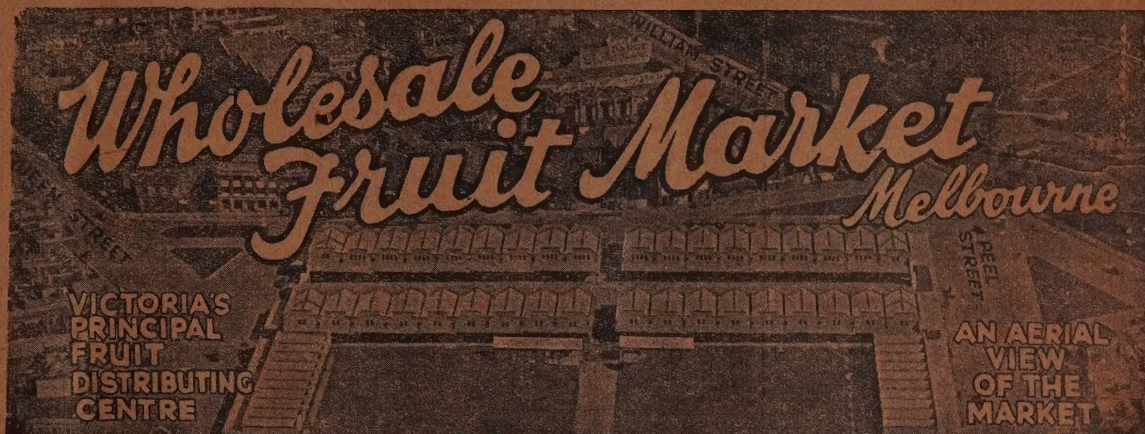
## GROWING PEAS COMMERCIALLY.

## Rotation of Crops Essential.

Speaking as a biologist on the subject of methods to prevent diseases in Pea crops, Dr. Magee, Chief Biologist, N.S.W. Dept. of Agric., said it was impossible to keep Pea crops free from disease without rotational methods. He understood that in some of the Pea-growing States of U.S.A., 60 per cent. of the crops were grown on land which had not carried Peas for five years previously.

## UNIFICATION OF RED CROSS IN AUSTRALIA.

At the Conference of the National Executive held on the 11th December last year it was recommended that, as the Red Cross movement must be maintained throughout the world, and that Australia must take a full share in this world-wide organisation, a strong National body be maintained, which shall be in continuous operation, as the focal point for all Red Cross work in the Commonwealth and its dependencies.



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## NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney (30/1/46).

The State Marketing Bureau reports as follow:—

## Fruit (City Municipal Markets).

Fairly large consignments of Williams Pears were received from Victoria, and the quantities from inland orchards of this State were also larger. Demand generally was moderate—being mainly for coloured packs. Rates covered a fairly wide range at from 12/- to 22/-, occasional specials selling to 25/- early in the period, per bushel.

Dessert Apples continued to sell well, the maximum of 29/- per bushel being paid for the best sizes of Gravenstein and McIntosh Red. Small fruit, however, was difficult to clear at prices ranging from 10/-. Increased supplies of Granny Smiths for culinary purposes were forward, but the fruit was mostly of small size. Prices ranged from 10/- to 20/-, with some large sizes to 25/- per bushel. Small consignments of Queensland and Victorian Apples were available.

Current prices were: — Apples: Dessert 20/- to 29/-, small from 10/-, cooking 15/- to 25/-, small from 8/-. Pears: Williams 12/- to 20/-, extra choice 22/-, few higher. Oranges: Valencias—Main crop to 20/-, 2nd crop 4/- to 14/-, occasional specials higher. Lemons, 20/- to 25/-, factory lines from 12/- per bushel case. Bananas: 5½d. per lb., inferior lower (weight 80 to 96 lb. per case). Passionfruit, 8/- to 26/-, few 30/-. Peaches, 8/- to 14/-, extra choice to 20/-. Nectarines, 8/- to 16/-, choice large 20/-, few specials to 25/-.

Plums, 4/- to 15/-, specials to 20/-; Grapes: N.S.W. Black Muscat 20/- to 30/-, specials to 35/-, N.S.W. Black (other than Muscat) 15/- to 22/- per half case. Pineapples, 21/3 (nominal). Papaws, 20/- to 35/- (nominal). Rock Melons, N.S.W. 6/- to 12/- per tropical case. Water Melons, 7/- to 11/8 per cwt. Cantaloupes: N.S.W. 8/- to 16/-, specials to 20/- per crate.

## Vegetables.

Peas, 23/4, few 20/-. Beans: Good and choice 20/-, inferior lower, per bushel. Cabbages, 6/- to 14/-, early sales 16/-, few higher. Marrows, 5/- to 9/- per dozen. Lettuce, 5/- to 12/- per case. Carrots, 3/- to 7/- per dozen bunches, per cwt. basis 25/-. Parsnips, 4/- to 7/-. White Turnips, 4/- to 6/-. Rhubarb, 3/- to 7/-. Spinach, 7/- to 10/-. Celery (Local), 4/- to 12/-. Mint, 3/- to 6/-. Parsley, 24/- to 36/- per dozen bunches. Tomatoes (N.S.W.), 10/- to 20/-, extra choice to 26/-, ripe and inferior from 4/-, per half-case. Potatoes, 1st Grade, 7/10½. Onions (Victorian), White 23/6; (Victorian and Queensland) Brown 20/- to 23/6. Swedes, 12/-. Pumpkins, 10/- to 12/- per cwt. Cucumbers: Apple 6/- to 10/-, few 12/-; Green 8/- to 12/-, few higher, per half-case.

## VICTORIA.

Melbourne (2/2/46).

## Vegetables.

Beans, Kidney, 15/- to 30/- 50 lb.; Beetroot, 10d. to 1/- doz. bnchs., max. 14/- cwt.; Beet, Silver, 4/- to 6/- doz. bnchs.; Cabbages, 6/- to 10/- doz.; Carrots, 3/6 to 4/6 doz. bnchs., max. 21/- cwt. without tops, 16/- cwt. with tops; Celery, 6/- to 8/- doz.; Cucumbers, 2/- to 4/- doz.; Garlic, 9d. to 1/- lb.; Horseradish, 1/- to 1/3

bundle; Lettuce, 5/- to 10/- case; Mint, 2/- to 3/- doz. bnchs.; Melons, Water, 10/- to 24/- doz.; Onions, dried, 5/- to 6/- case; do., green, 1/6 to 3/- doz. bnchs.; Parsley, 2/- to 3/- doz. bnchs.; Parsnips, 3/6 to 4/6 doz. bnchs., max. 23/- cwt. without tops, 18/- cwt. with tops; Peas, 30/- to 40/- 50 lb.; Potatoes, 10/- to 16/- bag; Pumpkins, 8/- to 24/- doz.; Radish, 1/6 to 2/6 doz. bnchs.; Rhubarb, 3/- to 4/- doz. bnchs.; Spinach, 6/- to 8/- doz. bnchs.; Tomatoes, 10/- to 35/- case, few early to 50/-; Turnips, 3/- to 4/- doz. bnchs.; do., Swede, 10/- to 12/6 bag; do., 3/6 to 4/6 doz. bnchs.; Vegetable Marrows, 6/- to 9/- doz.

## Fruit (bushel case, unless stated).

Apples, eating, 6/- to 15/-, few to 18/-; do., cooking, 4/- to 8/-; Apricots, 30/- to 40/-; Grapes, Currant, 16/- to 20/- half case, Sultan, 8/- to 12/- half case, Raisin de Dames, 15/- to 20/- half case, Walthams 20/- to 25/- half case; Oranges, Navel and Valencias, to 20/6 (max.); Lemons, 18/- to 25/6 (max.); Raspberries, 1/- to 1/3 punnet; Strawberries, 2/- to 3/- punnet; Nectarines, 10/- to 25/-; Peaches, 8/- to 20/-, few to 26/-; Pears, dessert, 5/- to 12/-, few to 16/-; Papaws, 15/- to 25/- double case; Plums, 6/- to 20/-, few Jap. to 24/-; Bananas, to 6½d. per lb. (max.); Pineapples, 18/- to 23/9 double case; Passionfruit, 12/- to 30/- (max.) half case, few to 35/-; Cantaloups, 10/- to 20/-, few to 25/-.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Adelaide (30/1/46).

Fruit and Vegetables — Quotation and Report. Prices ruling and yesterday's East End Markets, supplied by S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gar-

deners' Association. Date January 30, 1946.

The undermentioned quotations are for F.A.Q., cases extra, except where stated.

Vegetables: Beans (French), 14/6 doz. lb.; Beetroot, 3/- doz. bnchs.; Cabbages, large 12/-, medium 9/-, small 6/- doz.; Carrots, 4/- doz. bnchs.; Celery, 6/3 doz. heads; Cucumbers, green 3/-, apple 3/- doz.; Lettuces, 2/6 to 3/-; Onions, picklers 18/-, white 18/- to 15/- cwt.; Parsnips, 4/- doz. bnchs.; Peas, 20/- bushel; Potatoes, 8/1½ cwt.; Rhubarb (Cherry), 2/- doz. lb.; Tomatoes, firsts, 20/- ½ case; Trombones, 21/- cwt.; Turnips 3/- doz. bnchs.; Swede 4/- doz. bnchs.; Vegetable Marrow, 16/4 cwt.; Triangles, 21/- cwt.

Fruits: Apples: Summer Strawberry, 18/- to 20/- case; Gravenstein, 18/- to 20/- case; cookers, 10/- case; Pears eating, Duchess, 16/- case; Apricots, 12/- ½ case; Nectarines, local 14/-, special 15/-, River 8/- to 10/- case (others lower); Peaches, White, 12/-; Plums, table 12/- ½ case, Prunes 5/- to 6/- ½ case; Blackberries, 6/- doz. lb.; Bananas, ripe, 6½d. per lb.; Pineapples, 5½d. per lb.

Cases and containers are extra to the above prices.

## FRUIT BY AIR.

Berry fruits from Tasmania were flown to all State capitals early in January to determine the feasibility or otherwise of a permanent interstate distribution of air-freighted fresh fruit. Raspberries and Strawberries were selected for the initial consignments.

The fruit for Sydney arrived in approximately six hours, having to be "transhipped" at Melbourne. It is considered that when a direct air service is established between Sydney and Hobart, time in transit will be less than four hours.

Australian National Airways sponsored the experiment, which was supported by the N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries.

Thirty-six punnets, packed in specially designed wax containers, were received. The Strawberry variety chosen was Sunbeam. The fruit opened up in excellent condition, and was of good flavour. It was sold through Jas. Slater Pty. Ltd., and brought 24/- per dozen. The air freight charge between Sydney and Hobart is 9d. per lb.

VEGETABLE CONTROL PRICES  
LIFTED FOR SOME LINES.

The Minister for Trade and Customs (Senator Keane) has announced the lifting of control over growers' prices for Beans, Marrows, Rhubarb, Trombones, Cucumbers, Peas, Sweet Melon, Watermelons, Lettuce, Pumpkins, and Sweet Potatoes.

Retail prices of these vegetables, however, would stay under the control of the Prices Commissioner (Mr. McCarthy).

If there was any evidence of practices intended to hold market prices at unreasonably high levels, there would be no hesitation in reintroducing control.



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# QUEENSLAND

VEGETABLE SECTIONAL GROUP COMMITTEE MEMBERS — ICED WAGGONS ON TRIAL FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLES — NEW MARKETS FOR BRISBANE — LARGE PINEAPPLE CROP INDICATES A BUSY CANNERY SEASON.

THE RECENT AMENDMENT of the "Fruit Marketing Organisation Acts" provided for the setting up of a Vegetable Sectional Group Committee dealing with all vegetables other than the produce types such as Potatoes, Onions and Pumpkins. The Sectional Group elections of the C.O.D. take place in August next, and special provision was made in the amending Bill for the setting up of a Vegetable Sectional Group Committee to carry on until growers have an opportunity to elect their own representatives. The method of appointment was by the Minister for Agriculture, on the recommendation of the C.O.D. The following is the personnel of the nominated Committee:—

Messrs. E. H. Short (Dimbulah), H. A. Hall-Scott (Bowen), E. A. Newman (Rockhampton), T. P. Reynolds (Chatsworth), W. J. Beattie (Lagoon Pocket), R. J. McAnally (Cooroy), C. H. Woff (Sunnybank), C. M. Apps (Wellington Pt.), R. H. Blake (Cleveland), J. C. H. Logan (Upper Tenthill).

Representation is roughly two from North Queensland, one from Central Queensland, three from the big winter Bean growing area of Gympie and the North Coast, and four from the Metropolitan, Redlands and inland districts, other than Stanthorpe, where vegetable matters will be handled by the Deciduous Sectional Group Committee.

## North Queensland.

With the experience gained by growers in the production of vegetables during the war years, production is now extended well into the summer. For instance, all through December, Cairns received heavy quantities of Cucumbers, with lighter supplies of Tomatoes, Cabbages, Carrots and Pumpkins, and some Beans. Even Lettuce was marketed. Townsville also had good deliveries of local vegetables, and it was surprising the way the Carrot season was extended well into the new year.

Grapes are grown quite successfully in North Queensland at Charters Towers, which services Townsville and all centres to Mt. Isa, and the Upper Tableland, whose market is Cairns. The main varieties grown on the Upper Tableland is the improved Isabella, which ripens very easily, and is of excellent flavour, and the White Syrian. Small quantities of Plums were also marketed in December from the Tableland.

Early January saw the last of the main crop of Northern Roughleaf Pineapples, many of which were marketed in Brisbane and Sydney. The whole of the Northern markets were over-supplied with Bananas, which sold at very low rates.

North Queensland has again been deluged with rain: there has been heavy flooding.

There was a good crop of both Rough and Smoothleaf Pineapples, which found very ready markets both locally and in the South. With hot weather conditions locally, growers who normally send the bulk of their Pawpaw supplies to Sydney and Brisbane, were inclined to concentrate on

Rockhampton, which was over-supplied with fully coloured, soft fruit.

Stanthorpe is experiencing an excellent season. Despite forecasts of heavy Apple losses from thrips and/or seasonal conditions, the crop is now estimated at approximately 450,000 cases. With good crops of Peaches, Plums, Grapes and Tomatoes, serious difficulty is being experienced in the supply of cases, and all available second hands are being made available by the Second Hand Fruit Cases Committee.

Stanthorpe participated in the general rains late in January.

## Iced Waggon.

The first trial consignment of fruit and vegetables by iced waggons was made to Townsville. The Department of Agriculture supervised the whole experiment, and the fruit and vegetables were made available by the C.O.D. and several agents. They were pre-cooled in Barlow's cold store at Applethorpe, and arrived in Townsville for the market on January 21.

The fruit in the iced waggon had a pulp temperature of about 30 deg. lower than fruit picked from the same orchards, and forwarded by ordinary transport. The truck had a good run, missing the hold-up at the Burdekin, which followed immediately afterwards, and the fruit proved a God-send to the Townsville people, as portion of it was cold stored and distributed during the shortage during the flood hold-ups.

## New Markets for Brisbane.

The announcement has been made that it is the intention of the Brisbane City Council to erect new markets, and discussions are taking place on the best site. The markets at the present time are within a stone's throw of the City Hall. The Turbot-street markets, which are privately owned, are actually on the opposite side of the street from the City Hall, and very close to the Municipal markets in Roma-street.

It is not known whether it is the intention of the City Council to close down the Turbot-street markets or allow these to continue in opposition to the new municipal markets. The question will be a very thorny one, as

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all the Banana ripening plants are now situated in the heart of the present marketing centre. It is anticipated that a site will be selected further out from the city than the present markets. Unless provision is made in the new markets for the erection of up-to-date Banana ripening rooms, supported by the C.O.D., which handles the bulk of the case and bunch Bananas sold in Brisbane, there will be a tendency for the retailers to give preference to the Turbot-street markets, which they will naturally visit first to purchase their Bananas.

## Pineapples.

The 1946 summer crop is estimated as likely to total 670,000 cases. If realised, it will be the largest crop since 1943, when 780,000 cases were harvested. The only other occasion with the 1946 estimate was exceeded was in 1941, when 715,000 cases were harvested. The crop, therefore, is well up to pre-war standards. This is rather remarkable, in view of the numerous difficulties which beset the industry during the war years, and the widespread frosts which devastated the industry in 1943, destroying large areas of Pineapples in many districts. (Continued on page 20.)

## SPECIAL NOTICE TO FRUITGROWERS

In response to numerous requests from growers for information as to who are members of the

### VICTORIAN CHAMBER OF FRUIT & VEGETABLE INDUSTRIES,

the following list is given. All are members of the above Association, and are registered firms carrying on business in the WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET, MELBOURNE. (All Members under Fidelity Bond)

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STAR FRUIT CO., 460 Queen Street.  
P. R. QUICK & SONS, 458 Queen Street.  
Office: 21 Wholesale Fruit Market, Queen St., Melbourne.  
Phone: F 4866.

Correspondence is invited by the Association.



## QUEENSLAND NOTES—(Contd.).

The crop this year has commenced somewhat earlier than usual, and very substantial loadings have already been made to interstate markets. Unfortunately, a number of growers have been harvesting their fruit in a far too green condition, with the result that there are large quantities of immature fruit, sour and unpalatable, in retailers' hands.

The Pineapple Sectional Group Committee, viewing the position very seriously, has instructed the C.O.D. to approach the appropriate authorities in all States seeking the immediate enforcement of Pineapple maturity standards. The Committee feels that the prevalence of green fruit has a most damaging effect upon the consumer demand, and that its reaction is very costly to the industry as a whole. Any measures taken by interstate authorities to enforce the maturity standards will have the

whole-hearted support of the Pineapple Committee.

## Busy Cannery Season.

For the first time for some years it is anticipated that canners will be fully engaged this summer, as it is likely that 350,000 cases of fruit will be available for processing. This will not tax cannery facilities, but the female labour position, which is very acute in Brisbane, may cause some difficulty. Canners are taking every possible measure to secure their complement of labour, but whatever the result, it is clear that they would be unable to cope with a sudden inflow of fruit.

To deal with this position, and also as a market stabilisation measure, the Pineapple Committee has again decided upon a "voluntary" diversion. Commencing on January 22, growers have been required to forward one case to the factory for each two cases consigned interstate during the first week, and thereafter four cases to the

factory to each five cases consigned interstate. The diversion will be policed by the C.O.D., which will withdraw bulk loading facilities and its attendant advantages from any growers breaking the diversion. Non-co-operating growers will also be unable to secure cannery allotments if hold-ups occur.

This measure will enable canners to commence operations earlier than would otherwise be possible, and give them a better opportunity to cope with peak loadings later in the season.

As a further measure to avoid hold-ups and the unfortunate price repercussions which result when excessive quantities of fruit are forced on the fresh fruit markets, the Pineapple Sectional Group Committee, in conjunction with the canners, is proposing, if preliminary tests are successful, to utilise cold storage to spread the canning season. By this measure it is hoped to further reduce the pos-

sibility of being forced to restrict growers loading to canneries during the peak weeks.

## Bananas.

A rapid increase in the area under Bananas in the northern part of the State has taken place over the past two planting seasons. The land utilised represents some of the best Banana land in Australia, with a very high production capacity. Many of the new plantations are now coming into production, with the result that the northern markets are being heavily over-supplied.

In the past the general quality of Bananas offered to the public in the north has been very poor, mainly because of the very primitive ripening methods used. Modern scientific ripening plants are being erected by the C.O.D. in the main northern centres, and the improved quality of the output from these plants will undoubtedly increase local consumption. It seems most likely, nevertheless, that in the future fairly substantial quantities of Bananas will have to make use of the Brisbane market. At the present time Bananas being received in Brisbane from the north almost invariably land in bad condition. A very great improvement could be made by the use of temperature controlled waggons and the speeding up of transport.

## RED CLIFFS CO-OPERATIVE.

At the 22nd annual meeting of shareholders of the Red Cliffs Co-op. Packing Co. Ltd., Mr. W. Cavendish presiding, highly satisfactory progress was reported. It was decided to pay 5 per cent. dividend on paid-up capital; rebate of £2/2/- on 1945 dried fruit deliveries; merchandise, 5 per cent. rebate on all sales; citrus packing 4½d. per case on all citrus packed; distribution of 50 per cent. of 1939 contributions to growers' reserve. The total amount of these allocations is around £23,000.

Messrs. A. Poppleton, R. J. A. Bradford, C. M. Mackie, T. A. McKellar, W. D. Smith (directors), and Mr. F. Weatherburn (manager and secretary), were also present. It was reported that a new citrus grader would be installed to deal with next season's crops. Retiring directors were re-elected unopposed.

## VICTORIAN POTATO CROPS.

In a report issued by the Victorian Dept. of Agric. on January 8, 1946, it was stated that applications for Potato contracts received by the Department for the year 1945-46 covered an area of approximately 90,000 acres to be planted by some 8,000 growers. As applications for acreage substantially exceeded the area that can be allotted under contract, further applications cannot be accepted. Growers holding mid-season and late contracts have been advised that the allotted area must be reduced by 25 per cent. Completed contracts returned to the Department represent 80,000 acres.

Deliveries during December approximated 5,600 tons, of which approximately 4,000 tons were new season's Potatoes. The bulk of the old season's Potatoes was delivered out of cool stores.

The price of No. 1 Grade Potatoes is £12 or £12/10/- per ton, according to variety, plus the late delivery premium. The price being paid for new Potatoes in December was £12/10/-.

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